

dear Mr. Gray may long be  
spared to each other - They my  
very affectionate regards to her.  
I fear our poor Boott is breaking,  
certainly both I & my dearest wife  
thought him looking very feeble of  
late. His aged mother still sur-  
vives, but that is all. He has  
been aiding me at to the best means  
of disposing of my Herbarium, as  
I shall no longer, according to my  
present plans, have room for any  
Cabinets - You will see a notice  
of it in Hooker's Journ. Bot.,  
which Dear Boott, recommended.  
I pray you to tell dear Torrey  
of my deep misery, for I can  
write no more - Give him also  
& the dear girls, my sincere love.  
I rejoice to hear that Lane is about  
to be married - & wish nothing  
more or better for her than the same  
measure of happiness that I have enjoyed  
for the past 3 1/2 yrs. God bless em.

8, Upper Bedford Place,  
20 Novem<sup>r</sup>. 56.

My dear Gray, I had hoped  
to have addressed you under  
very different circumstances  
to thank you for your Manual  
&kins letter (tho' v. w) which  
both reached me safely -

But alas ! in what words  
shall I tell you the story of  
my present woe - of the bitter  
agony of my heart ! Ten days  
ago - almost without warning -  
I lost my dearly-beloved, & most  
tender wife ! She was to me not  
merely a joy - but had become  
the necessity of my existence.  
Her bright, sunny heart, was  
a perpetual well-spring of  
new life, & I felt growing every

rather than o<sup>t</sup>, in the enjoyment  
of my exquisite happiness - But  
she is gone, & the world to me has  
became dark indeed! I know  
not, in the desolation of my spi-  
rit, what to resolve for the future  
or to do for the present - I have one  
ray of comfort only - My sisters  
in law promise me that they will  
to the extent of their power, be  
mothers to my bereaved infants  
(the eldest under 2 yrs. of age)  
& I have therefore concluded to  
quit as soon as may be my  
present most comfortable home  
where for 3 yrs. & more, I have been  
(oh! Law) happy! & to remove to  
Blackheath - a hamlet 6 miles  
from London, where two of my  
sisters in law reside, & where I  
purpose hiding my head in the  
smallest cottage I can find.  
Life has lost all its charm for me,

I draw back only to try my  
best promote the interest of my two  
sweet babes - for such in truth  
they are - My dearest wife was  
well over her confinement, &  
we were rejoicing in our great  
very great happiness, when she was  
seized with what appeared to be  
very slight fever, which continued  
off & on for about a week, when  
without really an alarm of dan-  
ger, she sank under a heavy  
prostration! I feel that so very  
sudden a reverse has but rarely  
overtaken any man - To judge  
of my present desolation, you  
must have known my previous  
happiness! I am again cut off  
from my fellow-men! unutter-  
ably wretched! Dear Boot, who  
well knew my dearest wife, can  
& perhaps will, tell you what  
I have lost - But no more - I  
pray God to grant the to you